

SECTION A: AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of claims is as follows:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A pick combination adapted for use in strumming/picking strings of a musical instrument, comprising:

a pick having a first surface and a second surface opposing the first surface;
a thumb pad attached to the first surface of the pick;
the thumb pad having a third surface attached to the first surface of the pick; and
the thumb pad having a fourth surface opposing the third surface and having an angular relationship with the third surface of the pad.

11. (Original) The pick combination recited in Claim 10, wherein:

the pick has a tip and a back edge disposed in proximity to the tip of the pick and a second edge disposed in proximity to the back edge of the pick; and
the first edge of the pad is thinner than the second edge of the pad.

12. (Original) The pick combination recited in Claim 10, wherein:

the pick extends longitudinally along a first line extending between the tip and the back edge of the pick;
the pad is tapered along a second line extending between a first edge of the pad and a second edge of the pad; and

the second line of the pad is transverse to the first line of the pick.

13. (Original) The pick combination recited in Claim 12, wherein the first edge of the pad is disposed on one side of the first line and the second edge of the pad is disposed on the other side of the first line.

14. (Original) The pick combination recited in Claim 13, wherein:
the first surface of the pick is disposed in a first plane; and
the second surface of the pick is disposed in a second plane having an angular relationship with the first plane.

15. (Original) The pick combination recited in Claim 11, wherein the pick is tapered from the tip of the pick to the back edge of the pick.

16. (Original) The pick combination recited in Claim 11, wherein the pick is thicker at the tip than at the back edge.

17. (Original) The pick combination recited in Claim 11, further comprising:
a pair of side edges extending from the tip of the pick to the back edge of the pick; and
at least one of the side edges being convex and at least a portion of the back edge being concave.

18-22. (Canceled).

23. (Original) A pick pad adapted for attachment to a stringed instrument pick, comprising:

a pad including a first major surface and a second major surface formed with an axis extending between a front edge of the pad and a back edge of the pad; the axis generally bifurcating the pad into generally equivalent areas of the pad the first surface means disposed on the second major surface of the pad for attaching the pad to the stringed

24. (Original) The pick pad recited in Claim 23, wherein the pad is formed of felt.

25. (Original) The pick pad recited in Claim 23, wherein the pad is formed of a resilient material.

26-37 (Canceled).

38. (Previously Presented). The pick combination recited in Claim 10, and adapted for use by a user having a thumb with a meatus, further comprising:

the pick adapted to be held by the user and to be moved in a contacting and strumming relationship with the strings of the musical instrument; a thumb sleeve adapted for disposition on the thumb of the user; attachment means including a first structure carried by the sleeve and a second structure carried by the pick, the attachment means being adapted for releasably attaching the pick to the sleeve;

the attached pick being moveable by the fingers of the user between a first position and a second position spaced from the first position on the meatus of the thumb;

wherein the pick has a generally planar configuration and the combination further comprises:

a pad disposed on the side of the pick opposite the attachment means; and
the pad having a first surface generally parallel to the plane of the pick and a second surface generally non-parallel to the plane of the pick.

39. (Previously Presented) The pick combination recited in Claim 38, wherein the pad is tapered.

40. (Previously Presented) The pick combination recited in Claim 10 further comprising:

a sleeve having a tubular configuration and extending longitudinally between a proximal opening and a distal opening, the sleeve having an exterior surface, and an interior surface defining an interior region of the sleeve;
the pick having a tip and being disposed relative to the sleeve with the tip extending exteriorly of the sleeve; and
attachment means for removably coupling the pick to the sleeve.

41. (Previously Presented) The pick combination recited in Claim 40, wherein the attachment means and the pick are disposed exteriorly of the sleeve.

42. (Previously Presented) The pick combination recited in Claim 40, wherein the attachment means and the pick are disposed in the interior region of the sleeve with the tip of the pick projecting exteriorly of the sleeve.

43. (Previously Presented) The pick combination recited in Claim 42, wherein the tip of the pick extends through the distal opening of the sleeve.

44. (Previously Presented) The pick combination recited in Claim 42, wherein: portions of the sleeve define a lateral hole extending through the sleeve; and the tip of the pick extends exteriorly of the sleeve through the lateral hole.

45. (Previously Presented) The pick combination as recited in claim 10, and adapted for use by a user having a thumb with a meatus, further comprising: the pick adapted to be held by the user and to be moved in a contacting and strumming relationship with the strings of the musical instrument; a thumb sleeve adapted for disposition on the thumb of the user; attachment means including a first structure carried by the sleeve and a second structure carried by the pick, the attachment means being adapted for releasably attaching the pick to the sleeve; and the attached pick being moveable by the fingers of the user between a first position and a second position spaced from the first position on the meatus of the thumb.

46. (Previously Presented) The pick combination recited in Claim 45, wherein:
the thumb is disposed generally in a plane and has a tip and a longitudinal
configuration; and

the first position is laterally spaced from the second position on the meatus of the
thumb.

47. (Previously Presented) The pick combination recited in Claim 45, wherein in
the thumb is disposed generally in a plane and has a tip and a longitudinal
configuration; and

the first position is longitudinally spaced from the second position on the meatus
of the thumb.

48. (Previously Presented) The pick combination recited in Claim 46, wherein:
the pick in the first position has a first angle relative to the plane of the thumb;
and

the pick in the second position has a second angle different than the first angle
relative to the plane of the thumb.

49. (Previously Presented) The pick combination recited in Claim 46, wherein:
the pick in the first position is disposed in a proximal relationship to the tip of the
thumb; and

the pick in the second position is disposed in a spaced relationship with the tip of the thumb.

50. (Previously Presented) The pick combination recited in Claim 48, wherein:
the first position is an extended position; and
the second position is a retracted position.

51. (Previously Presented) The pick combination recited in Claim 50, further comprising:
means for biasing the pick to the second position.

52-67. (Canceled)